

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/421,108

Applicant(s)

HSU ET AL.

Examiner

JAGDISH PATEL

Art Unit

3624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/15/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 195-214,216-230 and 232-251.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to amendment filed 8/15/05.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 195, 199, 200, 207-209, 212, 218-220, 226-228, 234, 240, 245, 250 and 251 have been amended.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney Michael Shea (Reg. No. 34,725) on 9/29/05.

Please amend the disclosure as follows.

Abstract of the Disclosure

A gift system and method enable gift givers to, among other things, each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a gift recipient. This system and method may, for example, be implemented by providing an on-line display of gift ideas to the gift givers. This on-line display of the gift ideas reflects uncommitted balances of purchase prices for one or more of the gift ideas having the partial purchase option. When the monetary contribution from the gift givers exceed the purchase price of the gift, a purchase request is generated.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 195-214 and 216-230, 232-251 have been allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The instant application is directed to a method, system, a computer-readable medium or a computer program for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a recipient at a centralized gift registry. It includes a nonobvious improvement over the most relevant prior art discussed below, in that in a each giver is enabled to commit a monetary contribution for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price.

Discussion of Most Pertinent Prior Art

5. The following references have been identified as closest prior art to the claimed inventions.

VEENEMAN US 5754981 teaches a multi-merchant gift registry, which provides a system for registering items, selected by a registrant from a plurality of participating merchants for subsequent communication to a prospective purchaser. The system has a computer system that contains identifying information about the registrant. VEENEMAN fails to teach or suggest the unique feature recited in each independent claims of enabling each giver to commit a monetary contribution for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price.

UCOPIA: Ucopia Unveils New Wedding Registry Partners;...."; Business/lifestyle Editors and Retail/Technology Writers, July 1998 teaches an online gift registry. UCOPIA

allows givers to collectively contribute towards gifts that otherwise be their individual budgets. However, UCOPIA fails to teach or suggests that each giver commits a monetary contribution of any giver-desired portion. (UCOPIA requires givers to specify their contributions in terms of whole number of shares specified for each gift, thus givers are constrained by the system and cannot contribute any desired amount that he or she desires to give towards the group purchase.)

Reasons for allowance

Claims 195-211, 218,219 allowed because closest prior art of record as discussed above fails to teach or suggest a method, system, a computer-readable medium or a computer program for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a recipient at a centralized gift registry. It includes a non-obvious improvements over the most relevant prior art discussed above, in that a each giver is enabled to commit a monetary contribution for any giver-desired portion of the uncommitted balance of the gift's purchase price and a purchase request is automatically generated for the selected gift if the total of the combined commitments is equal or greater than a purchase price of the gift.

Claims 212-217, 228-230, 232-233, 250 and 251 are allowed because closest prior art of record as discussed above fails to teach or suggest a method, system, a computer-readable medium or a computer program for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a recipient at a centralized gift registry. It includes a non-obvious improvements over the most relevant prior art discussed above, in that in the

commitment of each giver for part of the total gift amount is directly specified by a each giver as an amount of currency gift's purchase price and a purchase request is automatically generated for the selected gift if the total of the combined commitments is equal or greater than a purchase price of the gift.

Claims 220-227, 234-239 are allowed because closest prior art of record as discussed above fails to teach or suggest a method, system, a computer-readable medium or a computer program for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a recipient at a centralized gift registry. It includes a non-obvious improvements over the most relevant prior art discussed above, in that a gift giver is able to commit for part of the total gift even if the only gift amount specified by the gift idea for the selected gift is the total gift amount and a purchase request is automatically generated for the selected gift if the total of the combined commitments is equal or greater than a purchase price of the gift.

Claims 240-249 are allowed because closest prior art of record as discussed above fails to teach or suggest a method, system, a computer-readable medium or a computer program for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a recipient at a centralized gift registry. It includes a non-obvious improvements over the most relevant prior art discussed above, the amount of the monetary contribution of each commitment towards the uncommitted balance of the selected gift's purchase

price is directly specified as an amount of currency which is not constrained by the gift parameters specified by the gift recipient.

Claims 250-251 are allowed because closest prior art of record as discussed above fails to teach or suggest a method, system, a computer-readable medium or a computer program for enabling a plurality of gift givers to each make a respective commitment for a monetary contribution of any giver-desired amount toward a gift for a recipient at a centralized gift registry. It includes a non-obvious improvements over the most relevant prior art discussed above in that the commitments from the givers are received as monetary contributions towards a purchase price of a gift having the partial purchase option, a purchase request is automatically generated for the gift if the total of the combined commitments is equal to or greater than the selected gift's purchase price and a recipient specified substitute gift is substituted if the purchase request for the selected gift cannot be satisfied.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

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Leason et al. US-PAT-NO: 5898594 teaches a method and apparatus for enabling a selection of items at a computer terminal from an electronic catalog is described. One or more customers access the terminal and identify themselves, and each such customer's past item selections are made available to the system in the form of an electronic signal.

Cameron et al. US-PAT-NO: 5839117 teach a computerized event-driven routing system and method for use in an order entry system to provide user assistance and marketing functions.

Veeneman et al. US-PAT-NO: 5754981 Gift registry apparatus provides registration of information for a gift registrant and allows access to the registry by potential gift giver users.

Cameron et al. US-PAT-NO: 5592378 teach a computerized order entry system for placement of an order by a user via a terminal.

Freedman, "E-commerce=Evolution or revolution, Discount Merchandiser, Aug 1998 discussed issues that need to be recognized by retailers concerning online retailing services.

Rosner, "Buying into Interactivity", Brandweek, October 1995 teaches importance of interactive shopping to the retailers.

Smutko et al. "Bridal Business can be icing on the cake..", Chilton's Hardware Age, v230, n11 Nov. 1993 discussed bridal/gift Registry as a service offered by various retailers.

HIROSHI et al (JP 410207940) teaches a network shopping device and network shopping method, which is usable for gift giving.

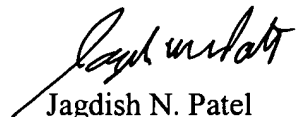
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JAGDISH PATEL whose telephone number is (571) 272-6748.

The examiner can normally be reached on 800AM-600PM M-Th.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Vincent Millin can be reached on (571) 272-6747. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 517-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jagdish N. Patel

(Primary Examiner, AU 3624)

9/29/05